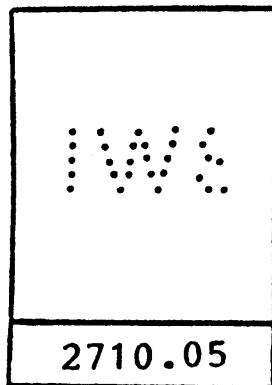


History of Perfin Users

THE IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOC. LTD.

From Paddy Murphy



The IAWS as it is known today started life under a different title, The Irish Co-Operative Agricultural Agency Solidarity Limited (ICAAS) and was registered on the 15th January 1897. Its office was a single room at 6 Westmoreland Street, Dublin with a Secretary, Bookkeeper and an office boy. Its main task was the procurement of seeds and fertilizers and it operated purely as an Agency, carrying no stock.

Within six months the single room was proving inadequate and two rooms were rented in 35 Dame Street. The ICAAS was an Agency solely and could not supply many small but essential items and so in December of 1897 the name was changed to the IWAS. In July 1898 the IWAS acquired the lease of number 151, 152 and 153 Thomas Street, Dublin. The main interest of this purchase was the extensive warehouses to the rear, so they set up shop in number 151 and sublet numbers 152 and 153.

Turnover in 1909 was £104,000, despite a fire, which burnt down the stores at Thomas Street. So much damage was done that the entire structure had to be pulled down and a new building, including offices, was completed by January 1912. The 1916 rising saw the occupation of the Thomas Street Headquarters, not by rebels but by British Forces. For a week there was disruption of the Society's busy springtime activities but no major damage was caused to the buildings. However, the expanding

business soon outgrew the buildings and magnificent new premises were commissioned in 1918. The business continued to expand and develop despite two World Wars, etc and today the IWAS's business spans the food chain from seeds to fertilizers, right through to flour milling, bread baking and food distribution.

---oOo---